

**VERMONT PESTICIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**January 15, 2014 MEETING MINUES**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Bosworth, Sid  
Decker, Kathy  
Giguere, Cary  
Hoffman-Contois, Razelle (Chair)  
Levey, Rick  
Palmer, Eric

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Gary, Lené  
Shively, Andy

**GUESTS**

Sylvia Knight  
Robert Wright

**Meeting Called to Order**

1:16 pm EST

**Meeting Adjourned**

4:09 pm EST

**Announcements and General Business**

- Minutes of the December 11, 2013 meeting were reviewed and approved with minor text edits. Will be posted to the ftp site. E. Palmer moved, K. Decker seconded. Vote- 5 in favor (L. Gary voted via e-mail), C. Giguere abstained as not present at December meeting.
- Regarding the ftp site, documents for posting or requests for removal of posted materials should be submitted to Razelle. Requests for copies of information that has been posted to the site should also be sent to Razelle. She will provide as attachments in an e-mail.
- The Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAFM) will provide administrative assistance to the Council beginning February 2014.
- Cary Giguere reported on bill H.586, a water resources bill that contains some language regarding surface water buffers and ties in with the Lake Champlain TMDL (total maximum daily load). As currently written, this could effectively negate the work the Council conducts with regard to buffers.
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**Public Comments**

Sylvia Knight addressed the Council regarding pesticide use in the state of Vermont referencing Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAFM) data from 2000-2012. Ms. Knight presented summary graphics prepared from these data and offered some theories regarding potential patterns observed. She requested that the Council consider potential use of the product "Chontrol" paste as a replacement for Garlon products. Cary Giguere noted that this product is not currently registered for use in Vermont. Ms. Knight noted it has been used in Canada. Ms. Knight encouraged the Council to have a proactive posture regarding substation vegetation management.

**Business**

**Status report on state of Council review of neonicotinoids in general**

Rick Levey noted the European Union (?) has banned use of 3 particular neonicotinoids for 2 years while alternative, potential less toxic products are undergo investigation. Cary Giguere noted that this class of chemicals was developed to replace the more potent class of organophosphate pesticides. Cary also informed the Council about the ongoing investigation of pesticides in Vermont bee pollen. Pollen traps were used to collect pollen from a total of 4 hives in Addison and Franklin counties. Pollen will be analyzed for a variety of pesticides including neonicotinoids, fungicides and corn herbicides. The 2012 summary will be distributed to the Council. It was noted that the majority of GMOs used in Vermont have seed treated with neonicotinoids and that there is no regulatory authority over such a treated article. After significant discussion, the Council determined that it is most appropriate for the Council to narrow the focus of the current review to the proposed use of dinotefuran in the Jamaica State Forest. The goal of the February 2014 meeting is for the Council to develop a recommendation(s) on the proposed use for the Secretary of AAFM. The Council will continue to review and discuss use of neonicotinoids in general with the longer term objective of developing recommendations regarding use of this class of compounds. Barbara Schultz, director of Forest Health will be notified of the revised focused.

**Review and discussion of proposed revisions to the AAFM Regulations for Control of Pesticides in Accordance with 6 V.S.A. Chapter 87 (Reg)**

The Council continued discussion of the internal review draft previously provided by Cary Giguere (AAFM). Those areas flagged for further discussion and potential comment during the December 2013 Council meeting were examined in further detail. The review/revision process is still in the early stages. There will be many opportunities for comment, including public comment, in the coming months. Comments may be sent directly to Jim Leland or Cary at AAFM. Topics flagged for further Council discussion include but are not limited to the Golf Course Permitting program, mosquito ground control by municipalities including consideration of developing a framework for such mosquito abatement efforts and coordination with the Agency of Natural Resources Groundwater Protection Rule and Strategy. Discussion will continue over the next several months.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday February 19, 2014 in Montpelier 1pm - National Life Building Ottawaquechee Room M205.